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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/642,984	08/18/2003	Henricus Peerlings	PO-7784/LeA 36,205	3487

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EXAMINER

SERGEANT, RABON A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1711

DATE MAILED: 09/08/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/642,984

Applicant(s)

PEERLINGS ET AL.

Examiner

Rabon Sergeant

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 June 2005.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 3-5 and 8-11 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 3-5 and 8-11 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

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1. Claims 3-5 and 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Within claims 10 and 11, applicants have claimed that the diisocyanate comprises polyphenyl polymethylene polyisocyanate; however, the claim limitation is confusing since p-MDI is not difunctional. It is unclear if the claim language allows for the sole use of p-MDI.

2. Claims 3-5 and 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for compositions wherein the prepolymer is derived from a diisocyanate and no more than 15 mol% polyisocyanate, such as p-MDI, does not reasonably provide enablement for compositions wherein the prepolymer is derived from substantial quantities of polyisocyanate. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims.

Applicants have disclosed at page 6 that no more than 15 mol% of polyisocyanate may be used to produce the prepolymer, so as to preserve the thermoplastic nature of the polyurethane; however, applicants' claims, as amended, allow for the use of substantial quantities of such a polyisocyanate. The position is taken that one could not practice the invention as claimed without having to resort to undue experimentation. *In re Wands*, 858 F.2d 731, 737 8 USPQ2d 1400, 1404 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

3. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible

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harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

4. Claims 5, 8, 9, and 11 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-5 and 7-9 of U.S. Patent No. 6,930,162. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other, because the instant process is an obvious variant of the process of the copending application. Firstly, the organic phosphorus containing compounds of the instant application encompass the phosphorus containing compounds of the copending application. Secondly, in the instant case, the claims provide for reacting component D) with the prepolymer before reacting C) (claim 5); therefore, upon reaction with D), a prepolymer corresponding to prepolymer II of the copending case will result. As a result, the position is taken that the respective processes involve reacting fully equivalent reactants in the same sequence.

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5. The prior art rejection in view of Quiring et al. further in view of Pelletier et al. or Lee or Lee et al. has been withdrawn in view of applicants' arguments and a comparison of applicants' example 5 and comparative example 3. A comparison of the aforementioned examples demonstrates that the instant prepolymer process yields an unexpected result, reduced shrinkage, over the one-shot process that could not have been predicted from the teachings of the relied upon references. The prior art rejection in view of Batt et al. further in view of Pelletier et al. or Lee or Lee et al. has been withdrawn in view of applicants' amendment requiring that the prepolymer be derived from a polyether polyol.

6. It is noted that applicants' example 6 is essentially meaningless, because the shrinkage value has not been determined. It cannot be determined if the example is representative of the claimed invention. Furthermore, example 7, as set forth within the Table, is misleading, because it erroneously states that the prepolymer is derived from Terathane and Cyagard.


7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

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however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to R. Sergent at telephone number (571) 272-1079.


RABON SERGENT
PRIMARY EXAMINER

R. Sergent
September 6, 2005